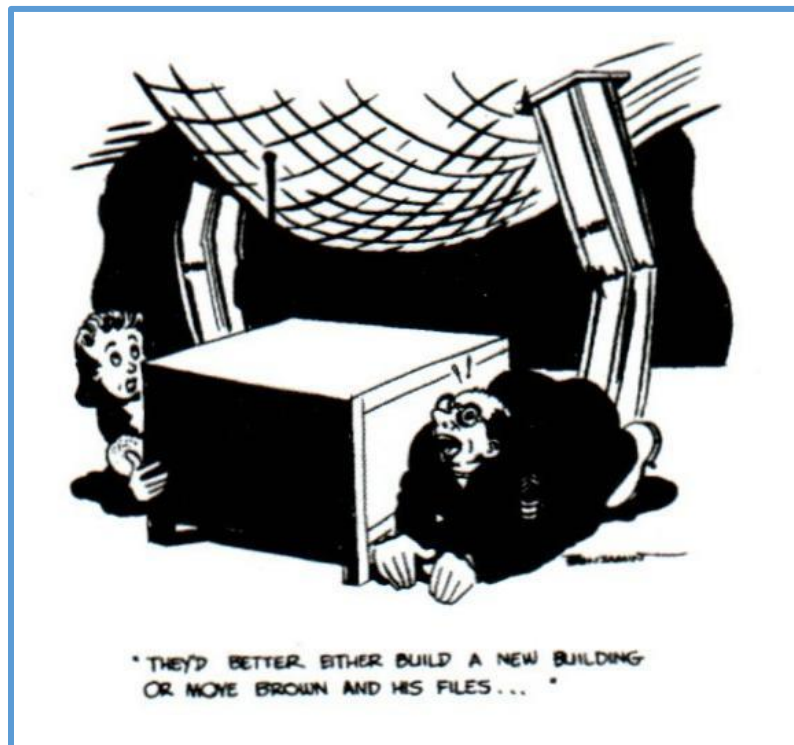


HISTORIC CARTOON --- A Dangerous Cryptologic Place March 22



Early in World War II, the U.S. Army moved its cryptologic headquarters from the Munitions Building in Washington, D.C., to Arlington Hall, a former girls' school in northern Virginia. The Signal Security Agency (SSA), as the organization was then called, was expanding at a rapid rate to provide the SIGINT support now needed in wartime.

This cartoon was published in a magazine for Army cryptologists, *The ASA Review*, in May 1950. (The Army Security Agency was the reorganized SSA). It reflected the problem at the time of its publication, but the problem was the same as it had been in 1942. The flooring at Arlington Hall had not been built to take the weight of heavy steel safes and many desks. Some had to be shored up; in other cases, offices had to store their files in areas away from the work spaces.

The problem was not fully solved during the entire lifetime of Arlington Hall as an Army station.

Author Name: The cartoon was by Bob Benjamin, who contributed a number of cartoons to the *ASA Review*; the commentary is by David Hatch

508 caption: a man and a woman are cowering behind a desk as the ceiling above them bulges downward and some support columns in the background are

buckling. The man is saying, "They'd better either build a new building or move Brown and his files...."